

THE KEARSARGE NAME

USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) is the fourth ship in U.S. naval history named for the mountain in central New Hampshire. The first Kearsarge was a Civil War-era sloop of war that made its mark in history during its famous battle with the Confederate ship CSS Alabama on June 19, 1864.

The second USS Kearsarge, commissioned in 1900, was a battleship - a rare selection for the name, given the fact that battleships, at the time, were traditionally named for states. It's missions included a fourteen-month voyage in 1907 - 1909 as part of President Theodore Roosevelt's "Great White Fleet."

The third USS Kearsarge was an aircraft carrier, commissioned in 1946, that served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. It is known internationally for it's part in the Project Mercury space program.

Today's USS Kearsarge, a multi-purpose amphibious assault ship, commissioned in 1993, served as the primary platform for the rescue of Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady after he was shot down over Bosnia in 1995, evacuated American citizens and foreign nationals from Sierra Leone in 1997 and provided humanitarian assistance in Turkey following a devastating earthquake in 1999. More recently, Kearsarge carried more than 1,800 Marines that were part of the initial task force that entered Iraq in the opening days of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Kearsarge also deployed two more times in 2004 and 2005 to support that operation and the Global War on Terrorism.

MISSION AND CAPABILITIES

The ship's primary mission is to load, transport and land troops and their equipment in support of amphibious operations anywhere in the world. Serving as the command ship of an Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG), KEARSARGE controls and supports all elements of a Marine Landing Force. More than 2,000 troops can be instantaneously deployed for a coordinated assault by both air and sea.

In carrying out it's primary mission, the 844 foot long, 40,500 ton KEARSARGE will transport and position ashore not only troops, but also the tanks, trucks, armored vehicles, artillery, ammunition and other supplies necessary to fully support any mission. Monorail systems, moving at speeds up to 600 feet-per-minute, transport cargo and supplies from storage and staging areas throughout the ship to a 13,600-square foot well deck, which allows access to the open ocean through a huge sea gate in the ship's stern. There, the cargo, as well as troops and vehicles, are loaded aboard high speed landing craft (LCACs) for transport to the beach. A Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) can "fly" out of the dry well deck using high powered fans and jet propulsion to speed across the surface of the ocean, or the well deck can be ballasted down to as little as ten feet of water, allowing conventional landing craft such as the Landing Craft Utility (LCU), Light Amphibious Resupply Cargo (LARC) or Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV) to quickly enter or depart the well. KEARSARGE also has full maintenance and support capabilities for aircraft, amphibious vehicles and other ships in the ESG. LHDs are the first U.S. Navy ships designed specifically to accommodate both LCACs and Harriers.

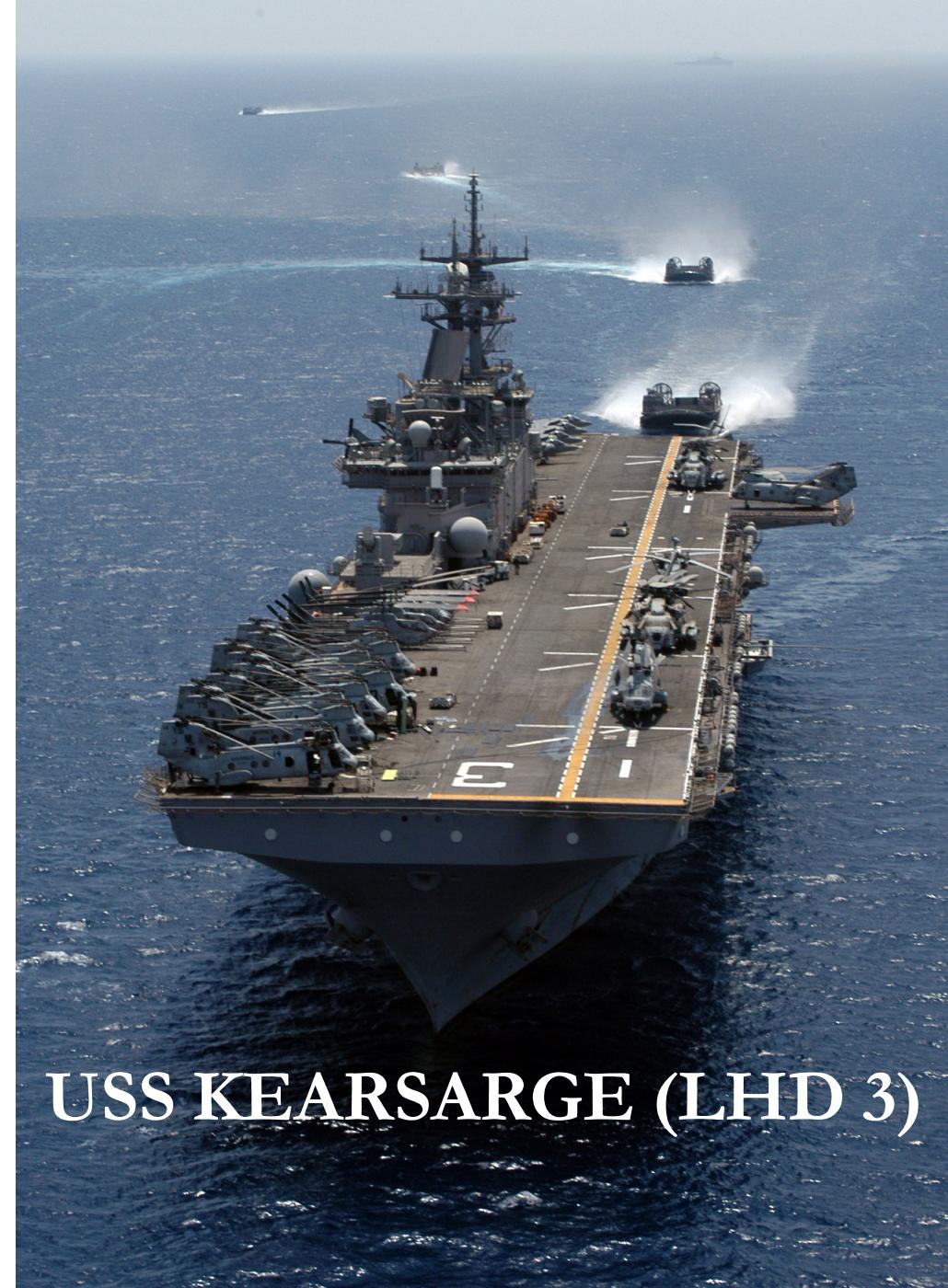
The ship's assault package also includes a wide variety of weapon and electronic systems. The integration of intelligence systems, data links and various onboard computer Local Area Networks ensures the most up-to-date and comprehensive tactical picture yet is available to embarked units and Marine components. The ship's extensive medical facilities and berthing capabilities provide efficient and expert care for troops

returning from battle conditions during wartime operations and disaster relief in support of humanitarian missions and refugee evacuations during peacetime. KEARSARGE can support up to 600 patients while still providing essential care to crewmembers and embarked troops. The LHD Class is second only to the Navy's ready-reserve hospital ships COMFORT and MERCY in medical support capability! The ship's living area will accommodate more than 1,000 crewmembers in addition to embarked troops.

Two steam propulsion plants - the largest currently in use in the U.S. Navy, pack a combined 70,000 horsepower thrust, propelling the ship through the water at speeds in excess of 24 knots !

The overall size, speed and capabilities of KEARSARGE make her a formidable force in the war on terror.

WELCOME ABOARD



USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)



Welcome aboard USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3), a capital ship of the line as the Fleet's finest amphibious assault ship! KEARSARGE bears a long and proud tradition that spans nearly a century and a half, from the Civil War-era sloop of war famous for defeating CSS ALABAMA to the ship you are aboard today, which served vital roles in operations around the globe, including, most recently, the liberation of Iraq.

As the flag ship of an Expeditionary Strike Group, KEARSARGE supports all elements of a Marine landing force of more than 2,000 troops, in an assault by both air and sea anywhere, at anytime.

During your visit, you will see many of KEARSARGE's systems, stations and capabilities. By themselves, they're just hardware. It is the crew - the best men and women America has to offer operating these systems- that allow KEARSARGE to carry out its mission. Like the crews that have sailed aboard this fine ship and its namesakes for the past 140 years, they embody the Navy's Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. I encourage you to talk to them while on board and I am convinced you will agree they are our nation's finest.

We are honored to have you with us today and hope you enjoy your visit.

Again, Welcome Aboard!

James Gregorski
Captain, United States Navy
Commanding Officer, USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)



SHIP'S STATISTICS

DISPLACEMENT:

44,000 FULL COMBAT LOAD

DIMENSIONS (FEET):

LENGTH 844 - BEAM 106

DRAFT 27

HEIGHT FROM WATERLINE TO TOP OF MAST 186

MAIN ENGINES: STEAM

TURBINES: 2 SHAFTS

35,000 SHP/SHAFT

BOILERS: 2 (600 PSI)

SPEED: 24+ KNOTS

AIRCRAFT:

6 AV/8B II HARRIERS

12 CH-46E SEA KNIGHT HELICOPTERS

4 CH-53E SUPER STALLION HELICOPTER

4 AH-1W SUPERCOBRA HELICOPTERS

2 UH-1N HUEY HELICOPTERS

2 MH-NIGHT HAWK HELICOPTERS

LANDING CRAFT:

3 LANDING CRAFT AIR CUSHION (LCAC)

MISSILE SYSTEMS:

2 NATO SEA SPARROW

2 ROLLING AIR FRAME SYSTEMS

COMPLEMENT:

CREW: 1,282 - OFFICERS 80

TROOPS: 1,700 - OFFICERS 193

